



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

**Teen Dating Violence Prevention
and Awareness Month**

WHEREAS, each year, about one in four teens report being the victim of verbal, physical, emotional, or sexual violence and adolescents in controlling or violent relationships may carry these dangerous and unhealthy patterns into future relationships; and

WHEREAS, young people can be afraid to discuss dating violence, or they may not recognize the severity of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, while parents and other adults can also be uncomfortable acknowledging that young people experience abuse, or may be unaware of its occurrence; and

WHEREAS, young people can choose better relationships when they understand that healthy relationships are based on respect and learn to identify early warning signs of an abusive relationship; and

WHEREAS, technology such as cell phones, email, and social networking websites play a major role in many teenagers' lives, but these tools are sometimes tragically used for control, stalking, and victimization; and

WHEREAS, emotional abuse using digital technology, including frequent text messages, threatening emails, and the circulation of embarrassing messages or photographs without consent, can be devastating to young teens; and

WHEREAS, adults who respect themselves, their partners, and their neighbors demonstrate positive behaviors to young people, lessons that will help them lead safe and happy lives free from violence; and

WHEREAS, elimination of dating violence must be achieved through cooperation of individuals, such as youth and parents, organizations such as schools, and communities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim February 2012 Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month throughout the State of Rhode Island and urge all Rhode Islanders to recognize the importance of this month.




A. Ralph Mollis
Secretary of State

Given under my hand and the great
seal of the State of Rhode Island
and Providence Plantations,
this 9th day of January, 2012


Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor